



June 2013

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery

# Illinois E-News

## SOARing to Success!

James—Catholic Charities-Diocese of Joliet

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Questions?  
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**Bill entered into Catholic Charities Daybreak shelter back in October 2012** presenting with a significant amount of anxiety and depression. He had a very tragic past, which involved a home invasion in which he was stabbed 8 times. James worked with Bill for several months and he started to receive services at a mental health facility, including counseling and medication. James knew even with medication and counseling, Bill would need additional support to get out of homelessness.

**In March 2013, James started to work on a SOAR application with Bill. This was his second application after being denied 4 years prior.** After writing a Medical Summary (MSR) and gathering all of his medical records, they met with the SOAR contact at Social Security and turned in everything to Disability Determination Services (DDS). James flagged the case as SOAR which was expedited because of Bill's homelessness. **Within 15 Business days James received a call from his SOAR contact immediately as a decision to approve benefits was updated on Social Security contact's computer.** Bill, due to not having enough FICA hours from a spotty work history, was not approved for SSDI but was approved for SSI. Bill will receive his first check on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June, in the amount of \$2,350 dollars and then, starting in July, he will receive \$710 per month which will then allow James to assist Bill in securing affordable housing.

Have a **SOARing to Success** story?  
Email [Beth Orchard](mailto:Beth.Orchard@dupage.org) to put in July's newsletter!

Contact **Beth Orchard** in DuPage & Kane counties or **Sue Augustus** if outside this area.

## Did You Know?

SAMHSA will release a Toolkit for Community Conversations About Mental Health. This toolkit will offer support for communities who wish to hold discussions about mental health. The Information Brief is available for free download. To access that brief, click [here](#).

President Obama hosted a White House conference on mental health on June 3, 2013. The President highlighted many goals during the conference, the broader goal being to create a national movement for change. Read all about it [here](#).

**[MentalHealth.gov](http://MentalHealth.gov) Launches!** This resource provides the general public with mental health information including signs and symptoms and how to help someone who may be experiencing a mental health crisis.



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## SOAR Q&A

**Q:** *My client is applying for disability but was recently denied benefits. Can SOAR help them?*

**A:** Absolutely! I get asked this often. SOAR is a GREAT resource to assist clients at Reconsideration or 2nd stage of appeals. Check out the tip sheet available online.

**With your help, they can SOAR to success!**

**Share your successes! Email Beth to print it in the newsletter.**



## Motivating You!

### SOAR and HIV/AIDS

*Below are some tips and tools to use when assisting clients with HIV/AIDS*

**“The Listings”**—Be sure to review what Social Security says as far as what will [meet a Listing](#) for a client with HIV/AIDS.

**SSA-4814**—This form can be completed by a medical professional who can confirm the severity of the diagnosis. [Turn this in](#) to Social Security along with the [Disability Report](#) (SSA-3368) and [Authorization to Disclose](#) (SSA-827).

**Side Effects**—Note the client’s medication and subsequent side effects. Document the effects, duration and impact on client’s mental functioning. With a little more diligence, you can truly make a difference for your clients who are living with HIV/AIDS. [Download SOAR’s supplemental guide for clients with HIV/AIDS here.](#)

If you have any questions, please contact [Beth Orchard](#).



## What’s Up, SOAR?

The SOAR TA Center hosted a webinar on **Understanding SSA’s Policy on Drug Addiction and Alcoholism (DAA)**. Did you know about the 6-Step DAA Evaluation Process? This webinar hosted presenters with intimate knowledge of this and other very important information about the new SSA ruling on DAA. As SOAR workers, it’s important to learn about new updates that will affect clients and this was a very detailed webinar with outstanding presenters.

**If you missed it**, check out the [SOAR website](#) in the next week for the archived presentation and accompanying documents.

**Upcoming Webinar on SOAR and Criminal Justice.** Don’t miss this upcoming webinar on assisting justice involved persons with applying for SSI/SSDI on *Wednesday, June 19th from 2-3:30 pm* (Central Time). Sign up on the [SOAR website](#).

Questions? Comments and Feedback? Email [Beth Orchard](#) for assistance.

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### The ACA and You

#### ***What's happening in the world of health exchanges and ACA implementation across Illinois***

**Bill SB 26 passes both Illinois House and Senate.** This bill will allow for a Medicaid expansion option for adults without minor children starting January 1, 2014. The Federal Government pays all costs of the new Medicaid adult group for the first three years and the state will be required to pay no more than 10% of the costs after that period ends. *Not only will this bring revenue to Illinois, but SB 26 will ensure hundreds of thousands of low-income adults in Illinois will not go without coverage.*

**Starting Strong for Community Health webinar Tuesday, June 25 2:00-3:30 pm.** Starting Strong Illinois is a collaboration of health policy and advocacy groups working together to promote successful implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). This important webinar will include information to help you:



- \*Understand implications of the ACA on free and charitable clinic sector*
- \*Explore how the ACA will impact free and charitable clinic partners*
- \*Understand the ACA and how it will affect other health care safety net providers*

Community based providers, advocacy groups, those interested in ACA implementation and those who would like information on the impact of ACA on the Illinois Medicaid program should attend.

Click [here](#) to register for this important webinar

#### ***The ACA is Coming, How Can I Help Enroll People?***

Illinois Health Matters hosts a blog where they discuss topics around health care reform and its effect on people across the state. This current blog focuses on ways in which providers can assist clients with enrolling in the Health Insurance Marketplace. They provide support and answers to key questions including:



- \*What is a Navigator?*
- \*What is the In-Person Counselor Program?*
- \*What Should I Do If I Want to Help?*

Find support for your questions with this blog. Click [here](#) to check it out!